

From the writer -

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A CUCAINE SPRAY-PRODUCER.



BY

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As the use of a spray-producer undoubtedly commends itself in regard to the employment of cucaine in surgery, I have devised an apparatus which, by the introduction of certain modifications upon the usual type, will be found to meet the requirements of the case in question.

On account of its expensive nature, every drop of cucaine-solution has some significant value, from more than one point of view ; and when used in the form of spray, its mission is quite different from that of carbolic acid administered in the same manner ; hence the carbolic spray-producer is quite unsuited for the administration of cucaine as a local anæsthetic.



C. WRIGHT & CO LONDON.

The accompanying illustration will explain the general appearance of the apparatus for producing cucaine-spray, and it is therefore only necessary to refer to its special features.

The spray-producer is made of silver, and the jet is as fine as can

possibly be produced ; it plays softly over a part without spluttering, and is so constructed as to act upon the eye-ball without inconvenience to the patient. In the ordinary spray, the air contained in the reservoir has only one means of exit ; namely, through the jet. This causes a waste of some of the solution, since the spray continues to act until the air is exhausted in the reservoir. To counteract this waste, particularly serious in the case of cucaïne, a small aperture has been made in the air-tube, which, while the spray is in use, can be kept covered with the thumb. When the spray is no longer required, the thumb may be removed, the air at once escapes through this opening, and simultaneously the jet is arrested. This contrivance prevents all dropping of the solution, and also it regulates its action with great precision.

The cucaïne-spray has proved useful in all operations on the eye, and on mucous surfaces. In the removal of hæmorrhoids, for instance, the assistant is enabled to keep the part in an anæsthetic condition by an occasional spray, whilst the surgeon may carry out, uninterruptedly, the various details of the operation. In general surgery it is often equally useful, especially in herniotomy and ligature of arteries. There is, of necessity, a little difficulty in preventing pain, during the first incision through the skin. This having been, if possible, overcome, a sufficiently strong solution of cucaïne-spray, turned on to the exposed surface of the subcutaneous tissue, will render the operation painless throughout the rest of its course, and for this reason practicable without the employment of a general anæsthetic.

The spray-producer can be procured of Messrs. Wright and Co., 108, New Bond Street, London, who have made it at my suggestion ; and I am glad to take this opportunity of thanking them for their assistance, and for the trouble they have taken in the matter.